

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A key input device comprising:
key input means for inputting characters by key input in a plurality of character input modes;
switching means for switching a plurality of character input modes;
a key backlight which is placed on a lower surface of said key input means and is lighted in a plurality of colors; and
key backlight lighting control means for changing a lighting color and a lighting position of said key backlight so that backlights are lighted for each set of keys that can be used for each character input mode of the plurality of character input modes in accordance with switching of character input modes,
said key input means comprising a plurality of keys, said key backlight comprising light-emitting means located at lower surfaces of the respective keys and located below the bottom of the respective keys if the respective keys are viewed in a direction perpendicular to top surfaces of the respective keys.

2. (Currently Amended) A device according to claim 1, wherein
~~said key input means comprises a plurality of keys,~~
~~said key backlight comprises light-emitting means located at lower surfaces of the respective keys, and~~
said key backlight lighting control means changes a lighting color of only the light-emitting means located at the lower surface of a key which can be used for character input operation in a set character input mode.

3. (Original) A device according to claim 1, wherein

said device further comprises storage means for storing correspondence data between a plurality of character input modes and a plurality of colors, and

when a signal indicating that a character input mode is switched is input from said key input means, said key backlight lighting control means determines a lighting color of said key backlight by referring to said storage means.

4. (Original) A device according to claim 3, wherein
said storage means comprises first storage means which cannot be overwritten, and
the correspondence data is stored as an initial setting value in the first storage means.

5. (Original) A device according to claim 4, wherein
said storage means comprises second storage means which can be overwritten, and
said key backlight lighting control means writes the correspondence data as a user setting value in the second storage means.

6. (Original) A device according to claim 5, wherein said key backlight lighting control means preferentially refers to a user setting value when the user setting value is stored.

7. (Original) A device according to claim 3, wherein
said storage means further comprises key backlight application setting lighting color data for setting a lighting color of said key backlight, and key backlight application setting lighting position data for setting a lighting position of said key backlight, and
said key backlight lighting control means determines a lighting color of said key backlight by referring to at least one of key backlight application setting lighting color data and key backlight application setting lighting position data.

8. (Currently Amended) A device according to claim 7, wherein said key backlight lighting control means obtains, from a source external to said key input device, application software including the key backlight application setting lighting color data and key backlight

application setting lighting position data, and refers to at least one of the key backlight application setting lighting color data and the key backlight application setting lighting position data while the application software is executed.

9. **(Previously Presented)** A key input device defined in claim 1, wherein said key input device is included in a cell phone.